

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-11 (canceled):

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~Polyvinyl A~~ polyvinyl alcohol gel ~~comprises comprising~~ at least two different polyvinyl alcohols ~~of the types PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3~~ and a swelling agent, each polyvinyl alcohol being of the type selected from the group consisting of PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3, wherein the degrees of polymerisation ("DP") of PVA1 and PVA3 are >1000 and the degree of polymerisation ("DP") of PVA2 is in the range of 50-1000 and wherein PVA1 and PVA2 are predominantly linear whereas PVA3 has a fraction of long-chain branchings.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 12, wherein the gel has a modulus of elasticity E and/or a strength sm in MPa is >5 ~~and a stress-strain curve having a negative curvature over an interval within the range of 0-300% strain.~~

Claim 14 (previously presented): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 13, wherein the modulus of elasticity E and/or strength sm is >10.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 14, wherein the modulus of elasticity E and/or strength sm is >15.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 13, wherein the modulus of elasticity E and/or strength sm is >20.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 12, wherein the gel is obtained from a mixture of polyvinyl alcohol and swelling agent, wherein the viscosity of the mixture during forming is >10,000 mPa.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A process for preparing the gel of claim 17, including extruding the mixture to obtain a gel formation.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The process according to claim 18, including storing the gel formation at a temperature above the freezing point, ~~wherein a heat treatment is carried out and/or a reduction in the water content takes place during the storage.~~

Claim 20 (currently amended): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 12, wherein

- a) the degree of hydrolysis of PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 in mole % is  $>95$ ;
- b) the 1,2-glycol content of PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 in mole % is  $<3$ ; and
- c) the number of short-chain branchings of PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 per monomer unit is  $<10^{-2}$ ; and
- d) ~~PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 have an atactic conformation.~~

Claim 21 (currently amended): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 12, wherein

- a) the degree of hydrolysis of PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 in mole % is  $>98$ ;
- b) the 1,2-glycol content of PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 in mole % is  $<1$ ; and
- c) the number of short-chain branchings of PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 per monomer unit is  $<10^{-3}$ ; and
- d) ~~PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 have an atactic conformation.~~

Claim 22 (currently amended): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 12, wherein

- a) the degree of hydrolysis of PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 in mole % is  $>99$ ;
- b) the 1,2-glycol content of PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 in mole % is  $<0.5$ ; and
- c) the number of short-chain branchings of PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 per monomer unit is  $<10^{-4}$ ; and
- d) ~~PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 have a predominantly syndiotactic conformation.~~

Claim 23 (currently amended): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 12, wherein

- a) the degree of hydrolysis of PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 in mole % is  $>99.8$ ;
- b) the 1,2-glycol content of PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 in mole % is  $<0.2$ ; and
- c) the number of short-chain branchings of PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 per monomer unit is  $<10^6$ ; and
- d) ~~PVA1, PVA2 and PVA3 have a predominantly syndiotactic conformation.~~

Claim 24 (previously presented): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 12, wherein

- a) PVA1 and PVA3 have a degree of polymerisation  $DP > 1000$ ; and
- b) PVA2 has a degree of polymerisation DP in the range of 50-1000.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 12, wherein

- a) PVA1 and PVA3 have a degree of polymerisation  $DP > 2000$ ; and
- b) PVA2 has a degree of polymerisation DP in the range of 60-500.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 12, wherein

- a) PVA1 and PVA3 have a degree of polymerisation  $DP > 3000$ ; and
- b) PVA2 has a degree of polymerisation DP in the range of 70-300.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 12, wherein

- a) PVA1 and PVA3 have a degree of polymerisation  $DP > 5000$ ; and
- b) PVA2 has a degree of polymerisation DP in the range of 75-200.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The polyvinyl alcohol gel -according to claim 12, wherein

- a) the fraction of PVA2 relative to PVA in wt. % is in the range of 1-95;
- b) the fraction of PVA3 relative to PVA in wt. % is in the range of 1-80; and
- c) the fraction of PVA relative to PVA and swelling agent in wt. % is in the range of 5-90.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 12, wherein

- a) the fraction of PVA2 relative to PVA in wt. % is in the range of 2-90;
- b) the fraction of PVA3 relative to PVA in wt. % is in the range of 2-60; and
- c) the fraction of PVA relative to PVA and swelling agent in wt. % is in the range of 7-95.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 12, wherein

- a) the fraction of PVA2 relative to PVA in wt. % is in the range of 3-85;
- b) the fraction of PVA3 relative to PVA in wt. % is in the range of 3-50; and
- c) the fraction of PVA relative to PVA and swelling agent in wt. % is in the range of 10-80.

Claims 31-35 (canceled):

Claim 36 (previously presented): The polyvinyl alcohol gel, according to claim 12, wherein the gel has a degree of swelling Q in water in the range of 1.01-3.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The polyvinyl alcohol gel, according to claim 12, wherein the gel has a degree of swelling Q in water in the range of 1.03-2.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The polyvinyl alcohol gel, according to claim 12, wherein the gel has a degree of swelling  $Q$  in water in the range of 1.05-1.5.

Claim 39 (previously presented): The polyvinyl alcohol gel according to claim 12, wherein the gel is transparent and free of organic solvents.

Claim 40 (withdrawn): A process according to claim 18, including preparing the gel into a biomedicine.

Claim 41 (withdrawn): A process according to claim 18, including preparing the gel into an agriculture product.